

(b) the amount utilized by these centres out of the amount allocated to them, head-wise;

(c) whether the accounts of these centres have been audited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Mentally Retarded Persons

2479. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mentally handicapped in the age group of 6-14 years in the country;

(b) the number of institutions set up in the country to provide training and also treatment to these persons;

(c) the training capacity of each of these institutions;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the number of mentally retarded is much more than the capacity created in the country for their training and rehabilitation; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the prevailing situation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No survey has been conducted for assessing the number of mentally handicapped persons in the country in the age group of 6-14. However, a sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991 for persons with delayed mental development between 1-14 age, estimates that about 3% of the estimated child population has delayed mental development. Certain studies conducted by some organisations suggest that about 2-2.5% of estimated population suffer from mental retardation.

(b) and (c). According to the information furnished by Rehabilitation Council of India, the total number of institutions providing services (including training) during the year 1995 in the field of mental retardation was 626. Each organisation has an average capacity of 40 children.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Ministry of Welfare has established National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped at Secunderabad with the primary objective to train professionals to provide services of rehabilitation and special education. The Institute has 5 Regional Centres at Calcutta, Mumbai, New Delhi, Patna and Dimapur. In addition, the Institute has 13 supported centres and 7 affiliated centres which provide training to special educators.

Apart from this, Ministry of Welfare has been giving grant-in-aid to the voluntary organisations for training and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded persons. Setting up of a National Trust has also been proposed for providing total care to persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy and also to manage the properties bequeathed to them.

A comprehensive Act, namely, The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted as Act No. 1 of 1996 for ensuring the provision of preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation, social security measures etc.

Setting up of TV Studio in Sikkim

2480. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for setting up of a TV studio/centre at Gangtok in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a TV studio/centre at Gangtok; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Representations are received from various quarters, including the representatives of the people, for expansion of TV service throughout the country including the State of Sikkim. TV Studio at Gangtok in Sikkim is at present under implementation. Site has been taken over, building plans finalised and most of the equipments procured. Meanwhile, a play back facility has been provided at the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT), Gangtok w.e.f. 14.7.1996.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Development of Deva Tourist Centre

2481. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance for the development of Deva Tourist centre in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the importance of Deva Tourist centre, the amount of the assistance provided by the Union Government is very less;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to provide more funds to the State during the next financial year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The Department of Tourism, Government of India, has agreed in principle to provide assistance for the following schemes for the year, 1996-97 :

S. No.	Name of the project	Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Purchase of buses	4.00
2.	Tourist Complex at Vikramshila	30.00
3.	Wayside facility between Neterhart and Ranchi	35.00
Total		69.00

[English]

Cutting of Optical Fibre Cable in Kanpur

2482. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to cutting of optical fibre cables at Sirsaganj, Kanpur on May 18, 1996 the contact of Kanpur with other cities of the country came to an halt;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted to find out the causes of defect;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts being made to stop such occurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. There was no such case of Kanpur city being cut off from the rest of the country on 18.5.96 due to cutting of Optical Fibre Cable. However, the OFC link between Agra-Kanpur failed on 16.5.96 due to damage caused to OFC by a PWD party near Sirsaganj and restored at 00.45 hours on 17.5.96. However, this interruption did not cause loss of contact of Kanpur from other cities in the country.

(d) A new OFC route between Agra and Kanpur is likely to be commissioned as an alternate route.

Assistance to Religious Minorities

2483. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of religious minorities would receive assistance from the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation if the annual

family income is below the poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was set up on September 30, 1994 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 with the objective of providing financial assistance to these backward sections among minorities whose annual family income is below double the poverty line i.e. Rs. 22,000/- per annum.

(b) The Corporation envisages extending low interest credit to set up self-employment units to those sections of minorities who are economically disadvantaged and not in a position to get credit from other financial institutions.

[Translation]

Management Committee of Super Bazar

2484. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the members nominated in the Management Committee of the Super Bazar, Central Government Cooperative Store and other such stores functioning in New Delhi as on date;

(b) the number of posts lying vacant therein;

(c) the details of the recommendations received by the Government for the nomination of such members during the last three years; and

(d) the norms adopted for the nomination of such members?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) As per the provisions contained in the bye-laws of both the Super Bazar, Delhi and the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society, Delhi (Kendriya Bhandar), nine members including the Chairman are nominated on their Boards of Directors by the Government of India. The names of the nominated members in respect of the two Societies are given in the attached Statement. Government of India do not nominate any members in the Managing Committee of any other store functioning in New Delhi.

(b) There is one vacancy of nominated Director in each of the above-mentioned two Stores.

(c) In respect of Super Bazar, Delhi, during the last three years, nine requests were received of which only one was recommended. The recommended candidate was nominated on the Board of Directors of Super Bazar, Delhi.

(d) In case of Central Government Employees Co-operative Society, all the nominated Directors are senior Government Officers in their ex-officio capacity. In Super